

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant recites a vehicle having a an automated steering control system, the control system includes a control section configured to steer the wheels of the vehicle in a non-mechanical manner and a drive section to mechanically drive the steering of the wheels. The control section includes a first detector to detect coordinate data of a target route for the vehicle, a steering angle and a holding section for holding the steering angle to correspond to the target angle. The control system further corrects the steering angle based on the target steering angle and the actual position of the vehicle, in order to properly steer the vehicle along the desired path.

The prior art made of reference, taken singularly or in combination, does not adequately disclose the features of the instant invention.

Specifically, the prior art of Tanahashi et al and Murata et al , does not specifically show the correction of the steering angle based on the target steering angle of the vehicle and the actual steering angle of the vehicle. Murata et al only shows a steering assembly for a vehicle and any correcting of the steering angle is done through the steering wheel by an operator and not automatically by the vehicle system.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT J. MCCARRY JR whose telephone number is (571)272-6683. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S. Joseph Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. Joseph Morano/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3617

/R. J. McCarry Jr./
Examiner, Art Unit 3617

RJM
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